

FREEMANS REACH RURAL FIRE BRIGADE

Bunglers Bugle

Series 3 Winter 2007

Annual General Meeting “Standing Room Only”

This year's AGM was held Friday, May 25, and we did ourselves proud with a record attendance. Including our guests from Fire Control and the Group Captains, there were over 30 attendees, eclipsing the large gatherings at the AGM's of the early 80's. This was dually noted by our representatives from Fire Control and can only be of a benefit and aid for us in our quest for the new station. Indeed it was notable to hear that many Brigades are experiencing a downturn in numbers, whereas we are one of the very few Brigades with an upturn.

The office bearers for the next 12 months are as follows...

Captain Bruce Earle
Senior Deputy Captain Phil Rutter
Deputy Captains Bluey Flaherty
..... Malcolm Boyle
..... Garry Adams
..... Sue Flaherty
..... Rod Galea
..... Harvey Rawlings

President Bruce Earle
Secretary Jan Earle
Treasurer Bob Hair
Vice President Carol Bateson

Training Officer Bluey Flaherty
Call Out Officer Carol Bateson

Equipment Officers

- PPE, Fire Equipment Harvey Rawlings
- Station Maintenance Michael Taylor
- Assistant Sharon Steel

Permit Issuing Officer Bruce Earle
..... Bluey Flaherty

Fundraising Co-ordinator Chris Rutter

Catering Officer Leigh Taylor

Executive Officers Malcolm Boyle
..... Bluey Flaherty

Auditor George Greentree

Q. How do you put out a fire?
A. Take away one part of the fire triangle, or the crew leader.

Thank you to the ladies who provided a very appetising supper and to the members, in particular Anthony, Sharon and Paul, for the cleaning of the station.

LIFE MEMBERSHIPS

At the AGM, three new Life Members were nominated and accepted to add to the five Life Members of the Brigade. As was mentioned at the AGM, Life Membership is one of the greatest honours that can be awarded to a member for years of dedicated commitment, service and a contribution over and above what would be expected of a member. The following three members were more than deserving of Life Membership.

BOB HAIR

- Joined in 1972 and has given 35 years of continuous service as a fire fighter
- Regular response driver of the fire tanker
- Vice President 1982-1988
- President 1988-2004
- Treasurer 2004-present
- Long Service Awards for 15 years and 25 years
- National Medal 2003

BLUEY FLAHERTY

- Joined in 1979 and has 28 years of service to the Brigade
- Deputy Captain 1982-1991, 2004 - present
- Senior Deputy Captain 1992-1993
- Captain 1993-2004
- Training Officer 2005-present
- Hawkesbury RFS Deputy Group Captain 2003-present
- NSW RFS CIS Counsellor
- Long Service Award 15 years
- National Medal 2003

CAROL BATESON

- Joined in 1979 and has given 28 years continual service
- One of the original women to join the Brigade and form the 'ladies' brigade for during work hours
- Deputy Captain 1984-2007
- Vice President 1992-present
- Call Out Officer 2006-present
- Regular participant in Brigade fundraising
- Long Service Award 15 years
- National Medal 2003

Congratulations to you all and we look forward to a few years of service still to come.

ON THE FIRE FRONT

A few regular call outs over the Autumn period has seen us turn out just over a dozen crews. The majority of calls have been pile fires, however we have responded to 4 house fire calls over Autumn, one of which burnt down and another having heat damage to the kitchen and smoke damage throughout the house. Response times have been very good and crew numbers have been generally good as well. We are now in the house fire season, particularly when fires are being lit for the first time for the winter.

HAZARD REDUCTIONS

There are a number of Hazard Reductions set down in the Hawkesbury for this winter. Recent rain has hampered any plans to complete HR's at this stage. The word from Fire Control is that once the fuel moisture in the bush drops to a satisfactory level, then there will be a concerted effort to complete as many HR's as possible while the weather permits. Your assistance with crews when this occurs will be greatly appreciated. HR's are a good opportunity to keep our skills up to speed in a controlled and more user friendly environment, whilst reducing the fuel loadings in the bush.

TRAINING

**TRAINING NIGHTS
have changed to the 1st Tuesday
of each Month at 1830hrs**

**MEETING NIGHTS
have changed to the 3rd Tuesday
of each Month at 2000hrs**

We are in the process of putting together a yearly training program. Hopefully as well as the traditional training methods we use, it will also include visits to the RAAF Base, NSW RFS HQ at Homebush and utilising the training facility at East Kurrajong. However, if any member feels that they need training or a refresher in any topic at all, please feel free to ask either Bluey or Bruce and we'll add it into the training schedule.

FUNDRAISER BBQ – BUNNINGS WAREHOUSE

We have secured a date at Bunning Warehouse, McGraths Hill to do the fundraiser BBQ, being Saturday 28th July. This will be an all day activity. It is anticipated that 2 shifts will be organised to cover the day. Crews will be organised early in July if you are available. Bunnings have very strict guidelines as to the running and the Code of Conduct for this event, therefore a meeting of all crew will be held before the day, possibly at the July meeting. Potentially a few thousand dollars can be raised on the day .. lets hope for a nice sunny day!

FUNDRAISER – ALL HOLDEN DAY

The All Holden Day Committee have invited us once again to do the gate takings for the All Holden Day at the Hawkesbury Showground on Sunday August 5. Once again we will attempt to run shifts depending on numbers. It is an early start (approx 5.30am) but we can make over a thousand dollars on the day if the weather is good. Crews will be organised later in July.

EQUIPMENT OFFICERS

You may have noticed that the Equipment Officers position has been expanded. The role and responsibilities is one that can be divided and so the new positions have been created as follows.

Equipment Officer 1 – PPE & Fire Fighting Equipment

Will be responsible for the issue, supply and maintenance of PPE & fire fighting equipment on the vehicles

Equipment Officer 2 – Station Maintenance

Will be responsible for maintenance and housekeeping of the station and surrounds.

Assistant Equipment Officer

Will assist both Equip. Off. 1 & 2 with their roles

NEW MEMBERS

We have welcomed three new members to the Brigade over the last 3 months. Angela Rutter and Coral Taylor have joined the Brigade as Supportive members and Corey Warren has joined as a trainee firefighter. We welcome you all to our Brigade and hope that your time with us is enjoyable, satisfying and a bit of fun along the way.

FIELD DAY

The annual Field Day will be held this year on Sunday 26th August. We will be entering crews in each event. This is also a social day for all our members and families. We will be gathering numbers closer to the day.

BACK THEN... 1987

Our Brigade numbers started to decline in the late 80's mostly due a backlash against the new requirement that all members complete Basic Training. A lot of the older members refused to do this and left the service. We had just under 30 members in 1987 compared with around 50 only 5 years before.

The Captain was Owen Earle, Senior Deputy was Graeme Withers. Deputies were Russell Richardson, Al Slade, Carol Bateson, John Bateson, Jan Earle, Mark Reay and Pat Simpson. President was Pat Simpson, Vice Presidents were Bob Hair and Don Humphries and the Secretary / Treasurer was Jan Earle. Equipment Officers were Phil Humphrys and Al Slade. Training Officer was Ian Laird and comms was Jan Earle, Marilyn Earle, Sue Richardson & Carol Bateson.

We had the Leyland as our main tanker and the Toyota Landcruiser striker unit. Over the year 18 fire calls were attended to, of which 15 were in our area. The calls were broken up into 10 grass & bush fires, 4 MVAs, 2 house fires and 1 false alarm. Six members over 5 days attended the 'Rubber Mountain' fire at what is now the John Maroney Correctional Centre and six members also provided flood assistance. Standby rosters were implemented and the monthly radio check also had its beginnings. We also completed 4 Hazard Reductions.

CONTACT PHONE NUMBERS

For your own records, the numbers you need for any information or crew availability are as follows:

	Position	Mobile	Home	Work
Bruce Earle	Captain	0412 583 492	45796901	45751798
Carol Bateson	Call out officer	0419 245 130	45796445	45604490

WHAT'S ON . . . CALENDER

JUNE 2007

5th	Tuesday	1830hrs	Training – BF
19th	Tuesday	2000hrs	Monthly Meeting

JULY

3rd	Tuesday	1830hrs	Training – Structural
17th	Tuesday	2000hrs	Monthly Meeting
28th	Saturday	0730hrs	Fundraiser – Bunnings

AUGUST

5th	Sunday	0530hrs	Fundraiser – All Holden Day
7th	Tuesday	1830hrs	Training – Field Day
18th	Saturday	1300hrs	Training – Field Day
21st	Tuesday	2000hrs	Monthly Meeting
26th	Sunday	0730hrs	Field Day



A fireman is at the station house working outside on the fire truck when he notices a little boy next door. The little boy is in a little red wagon with little ladders hung off the side. He is wearing a fireman's hat and has the wagon tied to a dog.

The fireman says "Hey little boy. What are you doing?"

The little boy says "I'm pretending to be a fireman and this is my fire truck!"

The fireman walks over to take a closer look. "Little boy that sure is a nice fire truck!" the fireman says.

"Thanks mister", says the little boy.

The fireman looks a little closer and notices the little boy has tied the dog to the wagon by its testicles. "Little boy", says the fireman, "I don't want to tell you how to run your fire truck, but if you were to tie that rope around the dog's neck I think you could go faster."

The little boy says, "You're probably right mister, but then I wouldn't have a siren!"

RESCUED

The fireman climbs the ladder to the bedroom of a burning house, and there he finds a curvaceous brunette, "Ah", he says, "you are the third pregnant girl I've rescued this month".

"But, I'm not pregnant!"

"You're not rescued yet!"



This edition of 'Bunglers Bugle' created by –